

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims are set forth below. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (previously amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), or (previously added).

Please AMEND claims 1, 56 and 63 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hub document preparation method, for use in a computer system having a file system to manage data by storing the data in a file-system directory, for preparing a hub document which describes entity declarations for referring to entities of documents individually corresponding to a plurality of non-structured documents in order to prepare a single hub document format structured document from the plurality of non-structured documents, the method comprising:

setting in advance one original document file-system directory for storing the plurality of non-structured documents and one structured document file-system directory for storing a plurality of structured documents obtained by conversion of the plurality of non-structured documents;

storing, each time one of the plurality of non-structured documents to be included in the hub document format structured document is prepared or edited, the one of the plurality of non-structured document into the original document file-system directory;

converting the plurality of non-structured documents stored in the original document file-system directory into the plurality of structured documents and storing the plurality of structured documents into the structured document file-system directory;

determining whether each of the plurality of structured documents is present in the structured document file-system directory; and

in response to the presence of each of the plurality of structured documents in the structured document file-system directory, automatically adding the entity declarations to the hub document ~~responsive to the presence of each of the plurality of structured documents stored in the structured document file-system directory~~ by acquiring document names of each of the plurality of structured documents stored in the structured document file-system directory and preparing corresponding entity declarations referring to each of the plurality of structured documents stored in the structured document file-system directory.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in addition to the original document file-system directory and the structured document file-system directory, an attachment file file-system directory for storing attachment files attached to the non-structured documents and entity declarations regarding the attachment files is set in advance, and, upon preparation or editing of any of the plurality of structured documents to be included in the hub document format structured document, if an attachment file is attached to the non-structured document, then the attachment file is stored into the attachment file file-system directory and an entity declaration for referring to an entity of the attachment file is prepared and stored into the attachment file file-system directory, and then the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the attachment file file-system directory are extracted and the hub document is prepared based on the entity declarations regarding the attachment files and the entity declarations regarding the structured documents.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in addition to the original document file-system directory and the structured document file-system directory, an attachment file file-system directory for storing attachment files attached to the non-structured documents and an entity declaration file-system directory for storing entity declarations regarding the attachment files are set in advance, and, upon preparation or editing of any of the plurality of non-structured documents to be included in the hub document format structured document, if an attachment file is attached to the non-structured document, then the attachment file is stored into the attachment file file-system directory and an entity declaration for referring to an entity of the attachment file is prepared and stored into the attachment file file-system directory, and then the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity declaration file-system directory are extracted and the hub document is prepared based on the entity declarations regarding the attachment files and the entity declarations regarding the structured documents.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the entity declarations of the structured documents have file names corresponding to file names of the original non-structured documents individually corresponding to the structured documents.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the entity declarations of the structured documents have file names corresponding to file names of the original non-structured documents individually corresponding to the structured documents.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the entity declarations of the structured documents have file names corresponding to file names of the original non-structured documents individually corresponding to the structured documents.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity declaration file-system directory have file names corresponding to file names of the non-structured documents to which the attachment files are attached.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity declaration file-system directory have file names corresponding to file names of the non-structured documents to which the attachment files are attached.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity declaration file-system directory have file names corresponding to file names of the non-structured documents to which the attachment files are attached.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity declaration file-system directory have file names corresponding to file names of the non-structured documents to which the attachment files are attached.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity

declaration file-system directory have file names corresponding to file names of the non-structured documents to which the attachment files are attached.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity declaration file-system directory have file names corresponding to file names of the non-structured documents to which the attachment files are attached.

13. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

14. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

15. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

16. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

17. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

18. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

19. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

20. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

21. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

22. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

23. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

24. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

25. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

26. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

27. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

28. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

29. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

30. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

31. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

32. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

33. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

34. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

35. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

36. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

37. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

38. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

39. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

40. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

41. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

42. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

43. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

44. (ORIGINAL) A. hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

45. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

46. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

47. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

48. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

49. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A volatile or non-volatile computer-readable storage storing information for a computer to perform a method according to claim 1.

50. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A volatile or non-volatile computer-readable storage storing information for a computer to perform a method according to claim 2.

51. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A volatile or non-volatile computer-readable storage storing information for a computer to perform a method according to claim 3.

52. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A volatile or non-volatile computer-readable storage storing information for a computer to perform a method according to claim 4.

53. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A volatile or non-volatile computer-readable storage storing information for a computer to perform a method according to claim 7.

54. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A volatile or non-volatile computer-readable storage storing information for a computer to perform a method according to claim 13.

55. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A volatile or non-volatile computer-readable

storage storing information for a computer to perform a method according to claim 25.

56. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hub document preparation apparatus, for use in a computer system having a file system to manage data by storing the data in a file-system directory, for preparing a hub document which describes entity declarations for referring to entities of documents individually corresponding to a plurality of non-structured documents in order to prepare a single hub document format structured document from the plurality of non-structured documents, the apparatus comprising:

one original document file-system directory setting in advance and storing the plurality of non-structured documents and one structured document file-system directory storing a plurality of structured documents obtained by conversion of the plurality of non-structured documents, where each time one of the plurality of non-structured documents to be included in the hub document format structured document is prepared or edited, the one of the plurality of non-structured documents is stored into the original document file-system directory, where the plurality of non-structured documents stored in the original document file-system directory are converted into the plurality of structured documents and the plurality of structured documents are stored into the structured document file-system directory;

determining whether each of the plurality of structured documents is present in the structured document file-system directory; and

in response to the presence of each of the plurality of structured documents in the structured document file-system directory, the entity declarations that are automatically added to the hub document ~~responsive to the presence of each of the plurality of structured documents stored in the structured document file-system directory~~ by acquiring document names of each of the plurality of structured documents stored in the structured document file-system directory and preparing corresponding entity declarations referring to each of the plurality of structured documents stored in the structured document file-system directory.

57. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A hub document preparation apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein, in addition to the original document file-system directory and the structured document file-system directory, an attachment file file-system directory for storing attachment files attached to the non-structured documents and entity declarations regarding the attachment files is set in advance, and, upon preparation or editing of any of the plurality of structured

documents to be included in the hub document format structured document, if an attachment file is attached to the non-structured document, then the attachment file is stored into the attachment file file-system directory and an entity declaration for referring to an entity of the attachment file is prepared and stored into the attachment file file-system directory, and then the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the attachment file file-system directory are extracted and the hub document is prepared based on the entity declarations regarding the attachment files and the entity declarations regarding the structured documents.

58. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A hub document preparation apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein, in addition to the original document file-system directory and the structured document file-system directory, an attachment file file-system directory for storing attachment files attached to the non-structured documents and an entity declaration file-system directory for storing entity declarations regarding the attachment files are set in advance, and, upon preparation or editing of any of the plurality of non-structured documents to be included in the hub document format structured document, if an attachment file is attached to the non-structured document, then the attachment file is stored into the attachment file file-system directory and an entity declaration for referring to an entity of the attachment file is prepared and stored into the attachment file file-system directory, and then the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity declaration file-system directory are extracted and the hub document is prepared based on the entity declarations regarding the attachment files and the entity declarations regarding the structured documents.

59. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A hub document preparation apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the entity declarations of the structured documents have file names corresponding to file names of the original non-structured documents individually corresponding to the structured documents.

60. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A hub document preparation apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity declaration file-system directory have file names corresponding to file names of the non-structured documents to which the attachment files are attached.

61. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A hub document preparation apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

62. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A hub document preparation apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

63. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hub document preparation method, comprising:
manually placing a plurality of unstructured document files in one pre-determined file-system directory;

when preparing the hub document, automatically responding to the presence of the plurality of unstructured document files in the one pre-determined file-system directory by converting the plurality of unstructured document files to a corresponding plurality of structured document files, where structure of the plurality of structured documents is given by markup tags included therein;

determining whether each of the plurality of structured document files is present in a structured document file-system directory;

determining structured documents to be referenced in the hub document by automatically acquiring a list of file names of the respective structured document files in the pre-determined file-system directory, preparing corresponding entity declarations, and adding same to the hub document, where except for the presence of each of the plurality of structured documents in the one pre-determined file-system directory, they would not be referenced in the hub document and where the presence of each of the plurality of structured documents in the pre-determined file-system is what determines that they are to be referenced in the document directory; and

preparing the hub-document by, in response to the presence of each of the stored plurality of structured document files in the structured document file-system directory, automatically adding the entity declarations to the hub document.